

STUDY ON IMPACT OF RECENT FLOODING
ON PADDY CULTIVATION IN SELECTED FIVE DIVISIONAL
SECRETARIAT DIVISIONS
OF BATTICALOA DISTRICT



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ABSTRACT

Batticaloa is one of the important rice producing districts in Sri Lanka. The average annual rice production in Batticaloa is 4.2-5.0 MT (under the rain fed cultivation it is 4.2MT and under the major irrigation system it is 4.8MT). Heavy flood was occurred in second week of January and first week of February in the Batticaloa District after fifty four years. Flood caused heavy losses to many sectors. Agriculture was severely affected by the flood especially paddy farming. A survey was conducted to examine the impact of flooding on paddy cultivation in five Divisional Secretariat (DS) divisions of Batticaloa District from March to April, 2011. The survey covered five DS divisions viz. KoralaiPattu South, PorathivuPattu, Manmunai South West, EravurPattu and Manmunai West. A pretested questionnaire was used to collect data from farmers. Data were collected on the socio economic status of farmers, details of farming, impact of flooding on paddy cultivation and livelihood status of farmers after flooding. Collected data were analyzed using SPSS 11.0.

The results of the survey revealed that pest population was increased in more than 50% of the paddy land in all DS divisions. Brown plant hopper and yellow stem borer were found as the major pests, increased after flooding. At the same time diseases namely neck blast and sheath blight increased in more than 30% of the paddy fields in each DS division. The weed population was increased in all DS divisions, especially 60% of the paddy lands in Manmunai West and Koralai Pattu South DS divisions. There was a significant association observed between the rice variety and achieved yield after flooding and Bg 360 rice variety did not give any yield for 83.3% of farmers who cultivated that variety. More than 50% of the farmers in all DS divisions experienced more than 75% of

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